

**Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources
ANNUAL REPORT – FY2012 (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012)**

General Information

Agency Name: Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources

Director's Name and Official Title: Milward Simpson, Director

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Cheyenne, WY 82002
Web Address (URL): <http://wyospcr.state.wy.us>
Other Locations: Laramie: SHPO Cultural Records Office
Office of the State Archeologist
Lander: State Trails Program Field Office
Statewide: State Parks and Historic Sites

Statutory References:

Established 1895, reorganized July 1, 1999, as the Department of State Parks & Cultural Resources

W.S. 9-2-401 through 9-2-419 – State Archives, Museums and Historic Department
W.S. 9-2-901 through 9-2-911 – Wyoming Arts Council
W.S. 9-2-1701 through 9-2-1708 – Reorganization of State Government
W.S. 9-2-2017 – Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources Creation
W.S. 9-2-2301 through 9-2-2308 – Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund Act
W.S. 11-10-113 – Wyoming Pioneer Memorial Museum
W.S. 16-6-801 through 16-6-805 – Works of Art in Public Buildings
W.S. 24-14-101 through 24-14-102 – State Parks Road Program
W.S. 31-2-401 through 31-2-409 – Snowmobiles
W.S. 31-2-701 through 31-2-707 – Off-road Recreational Vehicles
W.S. 36-4-101 through 36-4-123 – State Parks and Cultural Resources
W.S. 36-8-103 through 36-8-107 – State Parks and Reserves – In General
W.S. 36-8-301 through 36-8-320 – State Parks and Reserves – Hot Springs State Park
W.S. 36-8-501 through 36-8-502 – State Parks and Reserves – South Pass City State Historical Site
W.S. 36-8-601 through 36-8-602 – State Parks and Reserves – Curt Gowdy State Park
W.S. 36-8-701 through 36-8-702 – State Parks and Reserves – Sinks Canyon State Park
W.S. 36-8-801 – State Parks and Reserves – Fort Fred Steele State Historical Site
W.S. 36-8-901 through 36-8-902 – State Parks and Reserves – Bear River State Park
W.S. 36-8-1001 through 36-8-1002 – State Parks and Reserves – Wyoming Territorial Prison
W.S. 36-8-1203 through 36-8-1204 – State Parks and Reserves – Designated Transfer of Lands
W.S. 36-8-1401 through 36-8-1403 – Wyoming Historic Mine Trail and Byway
W.S. 36-8-1501 – Other Designations
W.S. 39-17-111 – Snowmobile Gas Tax Distribution

Clients Served: Wyoming citizens, out-of-state visitors, local, county and state governments and agencies, public schools and institutions of higher education, Wyoming nonprofit organizations, Wyoming businesses

Group to Which Agency Reports: State Parks and Cultural Resources Commission (Advisory)

Number of Members: Nine

Meeting Frequency: Quarterly

Wyoming Quality of Life Result:

- Wyoming values the unique aspects of its western heritage, providing residents and visitors expanding access to cultural, historical and recreational experiences.
- Wyoming’s natural resources are managed to maximize the economic, environmental and social prosperity of current and future generations.
- Wyoming families and individuals live in a stable, safe, supportive, nurturing, healthy environment.
- Wyoming state government is a responsible steward of state assets and effectively responds to the needs of residents and guests.

Contribution to Wyoming Quality of Life:

This agency contributes to the Wyoming quality of life through a combination of preservation, education/outreach, planning/construction/maintenance, and public safety by providing opportunities to learn about and enjoy the state’s arts, parks and history.

Basic Facts:

The Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources (Arts Parks & History) consists of approximately 172 full time, 14 permanent part-time, and 130-150 seasonal personnel. The department consists of two divisions: the Division of State Parks, Historic Sites and Trails (SPHS&T), and the Division of Cultural Resources. In addition, the department includes an administrative services section (Director’s Office, Human Resources, Accounting, Information Technology and Public Information/Education) serving both divisions.

The department’s headquarters is located in Cheyenne, with State Historic Preservation and State Archaeologist field offices in Laramie, Trails Program offices in Lander and State parks and historic sites located statewide. Our programs serve over 2,700,000 people each year, in-state and out-of-state. (Note: This is down due to the fact this report is early compared to last year, with not all visitation reported.)

The total operating budget for the department for Fiscal Year 11-12 was \$50,412,321, of which \$35,229,978 were general funds. The Department’s budget accounts for less than 1% of the state’s overall General Fund budget.

A major economic development survey conducted in 2009 indicated that Wyoming’s state parks and historic sites had a \$78.1 million impact on the state’s economy, “...supporting 1,123 jobs, generating \$28.9 million in wages and salaries and contributing \$3 million in state and local taxes.”

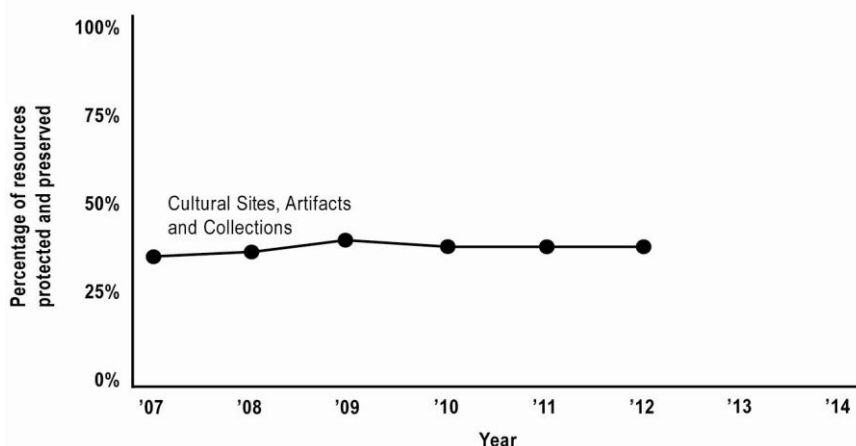
Performance Measurement #1: *Preservation – Protecting Wyoming’s important cultural resources*

Story behind the last year of performance:

The Cultural Resources Division programs showed only minor fluctuations in preservation. Program budgets for all divisions showed decreases, due to budget cuts, which allowed staff to maintain, not increase productivity levels from the past year. Areas experiencing challenges in maintaining productivity levels were mainly in the State Archives. Reduction in staffing through cuts and retirements caused the Archives to shift work duties of the existing staff to continue to meet the mission critical areas of the archives, micrographics and records management programs. All other programs remained steady in terms of ability to conduct work related to preservation activities.

Similarly, the State Parks, Historic Sites and Trails Division (SPHS&T) was able to preserve many of its historic structures including but not limited to: re-pointing the structures and re-dedicating the Piedmont Charcoal Kilns, and other smaller projects in the state.

#1: Preservation



What has been accomplished?

SPHS&T’s primary role in preservation is protecting, preserving and interpreting state historic sites. SPHS&T is responsible for approximately 125 historic structures within the state historic sites. For this reason, the percentage of historic structures that are protected, preserved and ready for interpretation/interpreted is included in the graph.

In order to be considered preserved, the exterior of the structure has to be in good shape and not in need of additional work other than general maintenance. Structures cannot be considered preserved if they were simply stabilized, since they are not restored and ready for interpretation. Structures were also not removed from the preserved category if they required paint or white wash since that is considered general maintenance. The interior condition of the historic structures was not addressed.

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist both remained stable over this fiscal year. The Archives maintained the previous year’s number of items archived, although they did need to shift or delay other responsibilities to meet the previous year’s numbers. The museum experienced a slight increase in the number of artifacts catalogued, due to making that a priority after settling into the Uncover warehouse facility. The Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund increased the total amount of grant dollars available from \$691,000 in FY11 to \$759,000 in FY12 due to an increase in interest earnings and the decision by the Trust Fund board to hold over interest earnings rather than grant them all in FY11.

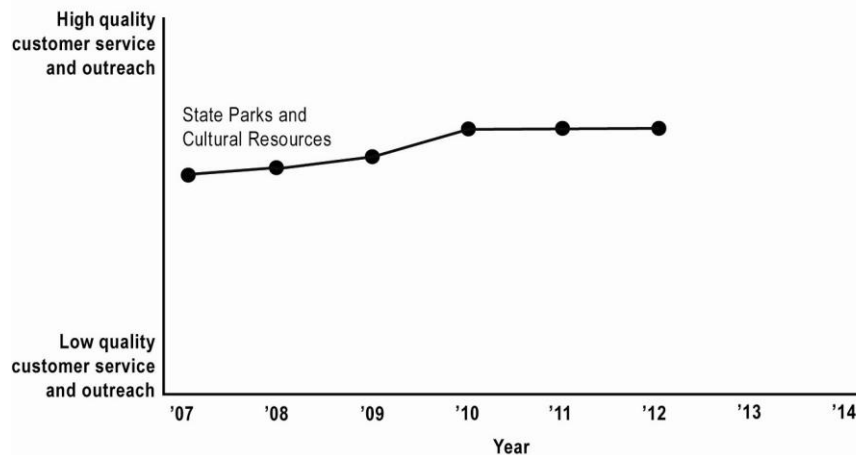
Performance Measurement #2: *Customer Service and Outreach – Providing high quality access to Wyoming’s cultural, natural & recreational resources and opportunities*

Story behind the last year of performance:

Regarding the SPHS&T Division, in our 2010 Visitor Survey, the public was asked: *How helpful did you find park/historic site staff?* 82% of the respondents to the survey indicated park/historic site staff was “Very Helpful” while 17% responded staff was “Fairly Helpful”.

In all of the Cultural Resources Division programs customer service and outreach was maintained at the FY11 levels. In the Archives program some of the work staff were able to do in previous years, such as digitizing information and preserving valuable paper documents was put on hold while those staff spent more of their time to ensure customer service and outreach levels did not decline. The reduction in staff combined with the retirement of key personnel was the cause of those impacts. The Wyoming Arts Council maintained levels from the previous year, but were also experiencing a series of shifts in work assignments among staff due to losing positions because of cuts the previous year.

#2: Customer Service and Outreach



What has been accomplished?

State parks and many historic sites were open for business 365 days this past year. Staff oversees 11 state parks, 21 historic sites, 2 archaeological and petroglyph sites, and 1 recreational area totaling 35 parks and sites. During the 2012 Legislative Session various land bills were passed including the addition of the LX Bar Ranch and Douglas Prisoner of War Camp.

The department has continued to enhance the volunteer program and through the volunteer coordinator position, hopes to have a comprehensive system wide volunteer program in place for 2012. In 2012, the number of camp hosts increased to 42 and total volunteer hours increased to 8,093 equating to approximately 4 full-time employees. (Note: This is not an ‘apples to apples’ comparison as this report is due at the end of the year — so not all numbers are reported yet.)

The Division has made a concerted effort to stabilize, maintain and restore many facilities, and is now making an effort to interpret and educate the public about these sites. Fifteen interpretative projects have been completed to date.

The State Trails Program issued 20 Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grants totaling \$1,188,100.00. Approximately 22 Trail Crew projects were completed on federal lands across the state. Grooming, on-going maintenance, construction of new All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) trail re-routes around wet areas, constructing and installing puncheons (small ATV bridges), installing water bars, rock removal, clearing trails of dead fall, tree trimming, sign improvements, construction and placement of informational kiosks were added to the trail system statewide. The Safety and Education coordinator held classes for approximately 6,300 students, traveled with the ATV simulator to participate and teach safety courses at various events and fairs. Our Safety and Education program has continued with a very aggressive helmet safety campaign, with print and video material distributed throughout the state. Staff also recruited and retained 10 volunteers to serve as educational trail hosts. Currently our program is filming a 30-minute video production that will be distributed statewide. This video will promote responsible and safe recreation with a "Tread Lightly" theme. This summer our Safety and Education Coordinator will be focusing on our Trail Host Volunteer program. Currently the Trail Host program consists of 15 volunteers throughout the state that provide educational materials and assistance to the public, while recreating on the Off-Road Vehicle trail systems in Wyoming.

Throughout the season a total of 5,701,148 user days were provided to the public on snowmobile trails in Wyoming. The program budgeted funding to provide more than 75,000 miles of trail grooming during the 2012-2013 season.

In conjunction with site staff, the Wyoming Conservation Corp (WCC) worked on a multitude of projects in parks from trail construction to curation.

Possible impacts this year:

In terms of SPHS&T, with budget cut impacts some campgrounds have been converted to day-use only areas. Budget reduction has also placed stress on the natural settings of the parks/sites. Routine maintenance and cleaning have had to be reduced. Youth programs have had to be cut and vital staff training has been removed. Both the hiring freeze and budget cuts will continue to impact cultural resources division programs over the next year, decreasing the ability for the cultural resource programs to continue the level of customer service and outreach seen in 2011.

In terms of the Cultural Resources Division, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) conducted fewer site visits with constituents due to budget cuts. The SHPO has not seen any decline in requests for comment on Federal Undertakings, but worked toward finalizing Programmatic Agreements that will streamline the consultation process. The Wyoming Arts Council continued to provide grant opportunities to artists, arts organizations and educators at levels similar to the last year. The Archives distributed duties among existing employees that were previously done by employees whose positions were lost or vacant due to budget cuts or attrition. Archives restructured the process of making transfer trips to pick up records for storage and is now conducting fewer trips and asking agencies to bring records to the records center. The Archives staff spent a good deal of time working toward the establishment of an electronic records program by developing a phased plan and working through a legislative committee and the Office of the Chief Information Officer to obtain funding for contracting with experts to begin the project. The museum has maintained basic exhibit functions at the Barrett building and did focus efforts on cataloguing artifacts in the collection.

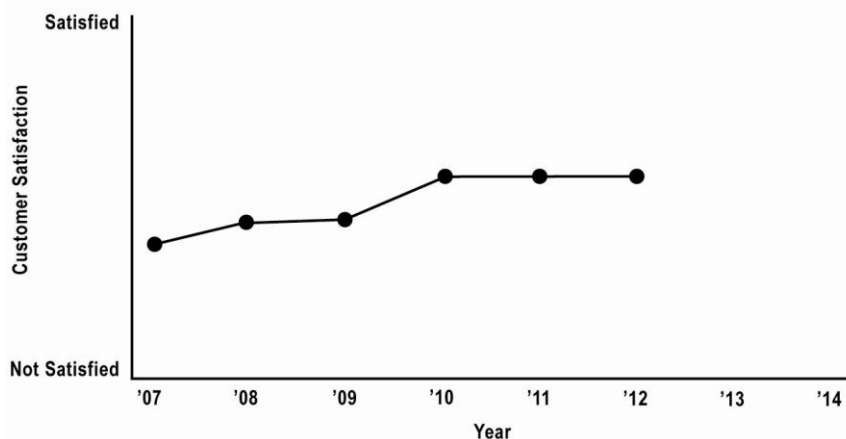
Performance Measurement #3: Construction, Maintenance and Planning – Providing high quality facilities for the public’s enjoyment

Story behind the last year of performance:

More projects falling under this category were funded in 2012 via the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund since the granting process began. This increase was due to an increase in interest earnings available for granting. The available grant dollars increased because of increases in interest earnings and also the decision by the Trust Fund board to reserve a portion of the available grant dollars for added interest earnings over the year.

The SPHS&T division requested but did not receive any additional funding to work on current deferred maintenance or capital construction projects. We were still able to complete some projects within our capital construction list from our enterprise funds.

#3: Planning, Construction, and Maintenance



What has been accomplished?

In calendar year 2011 there were 2,876,070 visitors to SPHS&T, approximately a 3 percent increase in visitation from 2010. This includes the fact that we had flooding and fires at some of the parks in this season.

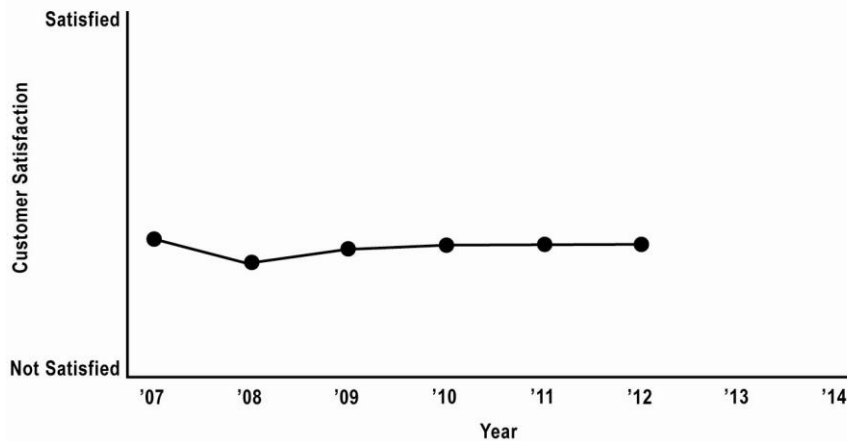
The Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund showed an increase in customer satisfaction as measured by the amount of funding available for such projects increasing in 2011.

Performance Measurement #4: *Public Safety – Providing a safe and healthy environment for our visitors and staff*

Story behind the last year of performance:

New legislation passed in the 2012 Budget Session provides more flexibility in AIS enforcement and should allow for better customer service.

#4: Public Safety



What has been accomplished?

We are continuing to have difficulty finding enough qualified officers for the number of visitors at the parks each summer, especially during the three summer holiday weekends. Many times we are having an officer to visitor ratio of less than one officer per 2,500 visitors. The recommended ratio by the International Association of Chiefs’ of Police is 1.75 officers per 1,000 residents. This situation creates the potential to provide less than optimum public safety to our visitors and less than optimum officer safety for the employees. Due to fires and other incidents we have had extra time due to the lack of personnel.

- 2007 citations – 739
- 2008 citations – 556
- 2009 citations – 683
- 2010 citations – 753
- 2011 citations – 700

Performance Measurement #5: *Economic Development – Supporting jobs, attracting businesses and generating revenue for the state of Wyoming and Wyoming communities*

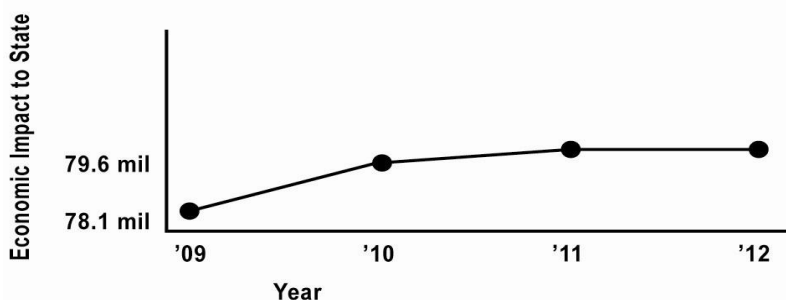
Story behind the last year of performance:

The fact that State Parks, Historic Sites and Trails provide a major tourism component to the state of Wyoming indicates that the division is a strong economic driver in the state. Recent focus on developing world class mountain biking trails at Glendo State Parks has increased visitation and, with it, economic impact to those regions. Our snowmobile trails have been voted top 10 by SNOWEST. The most recent economic impact study shows that for every general fund dollar we generate, \$8.97 in economic impact is returned to the state and local communities. The study can be viewed at: <http://wyoparks.state.wy.us/pdf/SPHSimpactbrochure2010.pdf>

The Cultural Resources Division generates revenue in several ways and provides matching resources, both in-kind and cash, for the grants we award annually. The division provides for economic development both directly and indirectly for the state of Wyoming. Our granting cycles are often more than one year and this division will not have final grant numbers to incorporate into a calculation of economic impact for at least one additional fiscal year. In 2008 and 2011, the Wyoming Arts Council partnered with the Western States Arts Federation to assess the economic impact of the arts in Wyoming in a report known as the Community Vitality Index (CVI). The CVI data shows that the arts certainly have an impact on Wyoming’s economy and provide income to many citizens throughout the State. The Arts Council is still in the process of analyzing the results of a 2011 update to the CVI data which will be reflected on the next Annual Report. The original report can be viewed at: <http://wyoarts.state.wy.us/pdf/WyomingFinalCVI.pdf>

The SHPO knows through anecdotal evidence that grants provided to communities and owners of historic properties are having economic impact and have potential for economic impact, but are working with other State agencies, such as the Wyoming Business Council, to determine how best to collect and analyze data.

#5: Economic Development



What has been accomplished?

We continue to add amenities to each of the systems like showers at Guernsey that will allow us to bring in additional revenue. We have also increased the interpretation options at many sites in the hopes to capture additional time/visitation from visitors.

STATE PARKS AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

